

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 5 and 6 have been added. No new matter is being added. Claims 5 and 6 are pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1 and 2.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Office Action indicated that the specification should be revised carefully in order to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and cited to the specification on page 2, first full paragraph, page 2, first sentence of the last paragraph, and page 3, first sentence of the fourth paragraph. The cited sections, and other sections, of the specification have been amended to improve the clarity of their language. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,665,275 to Kobayashi et al. (“Kobayashi”). Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 2002/034642 A1 to Takahashi et al. (“Takahashi”) in view of Kobayashi. These rejections are moot with respect to claims 1 and 2, which have been cancelled. Insofar as these rejections can be applied to new claims 5 and 6, applicant respectfully traverses for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 5 recites:

A method for manufacturing an optical member which is a laminated optical member including plural lenses, *one lens of which is formed of fluorite (CaF₂), another lens of which is formed of synthetic quartz (SiO₂)*, the optical

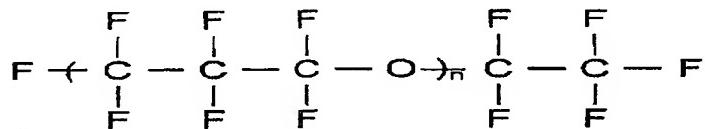
member being used in the UV region from 100nm to 200nm, the method comprising:

filling a fluorine-based organic compound between the *plural lenses*;
and

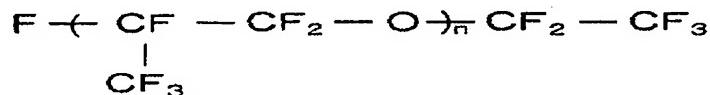
sealing the whole periphery of the plural lenses with an organic solvent-soluble amorphous fluorine resin having an adhesion so as to seal the organic compound filled between the plural lenses,

the fluorine-based organic compound having the formula (1), the formula (2), or the formula (3) as follows:

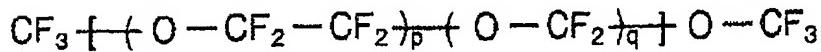
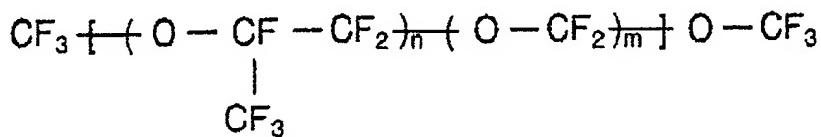
Formula 1



Formula 2



Formula 3



Kobayashi fails to disclose or suggest at least the above italicized features of claim 5.

Kobayashi discloses an optical device suitable for an anti-vibration optical system when disposed as a part in a photographic system, such as a still camera or a video camera, so as to correct an image deviation due to vibration of the photographic system (col. 1, lines 14-

19). The optical device includes plates 31 and 32 with substance 4 therebetween (FIG. 3 and 4, col. 4, lines 5-10, col. 8, lines 23-27), and an annular film 33. The substance 4 may be a fluorine containing compound (col. 4, lines 5-10). The annular film 33 may be of a number of different materials including rubbers, thermoplastic elastomers, and fluorine-containing resin (col. 8, lines 37-62).

In contrast to claim 5, however, Kobayashi does not disclose that its device has plural lenses where one lens is formed of fluorite (CaF_2), and another lens is formed of synthetic quartz (SiO_2). Kobayashi discloses his circular plates may be glass or plastic (See col. 3, lines 59-62), but nowhere suggests that the plates should be fluorite and synthetic quartz.

Takahashi also fails to suggest all the features of claim 5, because Takahashi does not disclose as recited in claim 5, “sealing the whole periphery of the plural lenses with an *organic solvent-soluble amorphous fluorine resin* having an adhesion so as to seal the organic compound filled between the plural lenses.” The Office Action on page 5, however, supplies Kobayashi for disclosing fluorine based adhesives. Applicant submits, however, that the method of claim 5 would not have been obvious over Takahashi and Kobayashi in view that neither of these references recognizes the advantages of using an organic solvent-soluble amorphous fluorine resin for adhesion in sealing for a optical member to be used in the UV region, such as one with the specific lenses as recited in claim 5.

Kobayashi fails to recognize that an organic solvent-soluble amorphous fluorine resin is resistant to deterioration due to UV absorption. This is not surprising in that Kobayashi does not disclose an optical device that is intended to be used only in the UV range. For the optical member produced in the method of claim 5, deterioration by UV absorption can be avoided. In particular, the sealant is not deteriorated by ultraviolet absorption, yet causes no adhesion distortion when covering the optical elements, so that the solvent between the lenses can be easily vaporized and hardened without requiring a heating treatment, nor does axial slippage result. In light of these advantages not realized by either Kobayashi or Takahashi, the steps of claim 5 would not have been obvious in view of Kobayashi and Takahashi.

Dependent claim 6 is patentable by virtue of its dependency from claim 5. Additionally, claim 6 recites evaporating a fluoride on a surface of the plural lenses. This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Kobayashi or Takahashi.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 19, 2006

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Thomas G. Bilodeau

Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,479

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438